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Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

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Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women
Pre-sessional working group
Sixty-seventh session
21-25 November 2016

Consideration of reports submitted by States parties under article 18 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

Report of the pre-sessional working group

1. It is the practice of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women to convene a pre-sessional working group for five days to prepare lists of issues and questions relating to the initial and periodic reports that will be considered by the Committee at one of its future sessions.

2. The Committee decided that the pre-sessional working group for the sixty-seventh session of the Committee would meet from 21 to 25 November 2016, immediately after the sixty-fifth session, in order to ensure that sufficient time would be available to States parties to submit their written replies to the lists of issues and questions, as well as to ensure their timely translation.

3. The following experts were designated as members of the pre-sessional working group and attended the session:

Barbara Bailey
Louiza Chalal
Dalia Leinarte
Patricia Schulz
Xiaoqiao Zou

4. The pre-sessional working group elected Ms. Schulz as its Chair.

5. The pre-sessional working group prepared lists of issues and questions with regard to the reports of Barbados, Costa Rica, Italy, Montenegro, the Niger, Nigeria and Thailand. In that regard, it was guided by Committee decision 49/IX, according

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to which the Committee decided to limit such lists to 20 questions. In practice and exceptionally, some lists contain a maximum of 24 paragraphs. In accordance with its decisions 58/II, 59/IV and 60/IX, the Committee, on a pilot basis, prepared a list of issues and questions prior to reporting under the optional simplified reporting procedure, namely a list of issues and questions prior to the submission of the combined sixth and seventh periodic reports of Luxembourg. For this, it was guided by its decisions 59/IV and 64/II, according to which the Committee decided to limit such lists to 25 paragraphs and to 75 questions, respectively.

6. To assist in the preparation of the lists of issues and questions, the pre-sessional working group had before it the reports of the States parties listed above, with the exception of Luxembourg, which had availed itself of the simplified reporting procedure, in addition to the core documents of those States parties, with the exception of Nigeria; the general recommendations adopted by the Committee; draft lists of issues and questions prepared by the secretariat; and other pertinent information, including concluding observations of the Committee and other treaty bodies, if relevant. In preparing the lists, the pre-sessional working group paid particular attention to the States parties' follow-up to the concluding observations of the Committee on their previous reports.

7. The pre-sessional working group benefited from written and oral information submitted by entities and specialized agencies of the United Nations system, non-governmental organizations and a national human rights institution.

8. The lists of issues and questions adopted by the pre-sessional working group were transmitted to the States parties concerned and are contained in the following documents:

(a) List of issues and questions in relation to the combined fifth to eighth periodic reports of Barbados (CEDAW/C/BRB/Q/5-8);

(b) List of issues and questions in relation to the seventh periodic report of Costa Rica (CEDAW/C/CRI/Q/7);

(c) List of issues and questions in relation to the seventh periodic report of Italy (CEDAW/C/ITA/Q/7);

(d) List of issues and questions in relation to the second periodic report of Montenegro (CEDAW/C/MNE/Q/2);

(e) List of issues and questions in relation to the combined third and fourth periodic reports of the Niger (CEDAW/C/NER/Q/3-4);

(f) List of issues and questions in relation to the combined seventh and eighth periodic reports of Nigeria (CEDAW/C/NGA/Q/7-8);

(g) List of issues and questions in relation to the combined sixth and seventh periodic reports of Thailand (CEDAW/C/THA/Q/6-7).

9. The list of issues and questions prior to the submission of the combined sixth and seventh periodic reports of Luxembourg (CEDAW/C/LUX/QPR/6-7) will be submitted to the Committee for approval at its sixty-sixth session (13 February-3 March 2017) before being transmitted to the State party.

10. In accordance with Committee decisions 22/IV, 25/II and 31/III, the lists of issues and questions focused on themes addressed by the Convention, as well as on the linkages between relevant themes and target 5.1 of the Sustainable Development Goals. Those themes include the constitutional and legislative framework; women and peace and security, where applicable; national machinery for the advancement of women; stereotypes and harmful practices; violence against women, including domestic violence; trafficking in women and exploitation of prostitution; participation of women in decision-making; nationality; education and training; employment; health; social and economic benefits; rural women; the situation of disadvantaged groups of women, such as older women, women with disabilities, women belonging to ethnic minorities and refugee and migrant women; equality before the law; and marriage and family relations.